The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor unmentioned in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1921, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 12, 1918.

GIVE NOW
To Your
Community Chest

WHOLE NO. 1904 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1947 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 37, NO. 40

Metal, Building Trades Departments Meet for Annual Convention Sessions

Frey Hits NLRB Edict; Says Inflation Not Labor's Fault

San Francisco.—John P. Frey, president of the Metal Trades Department, singled out the Taft-Hartley law and the high cost of living as the major issues facing American workers.

In a fighting address delivered before the department's convention, Mr. Frey declared the Taft-Hartley measure was written by men "who dipped their pens into the venom of hatred for labor."

Citing the bitter battles waged by labor in the past half-century, Frey referred to the struggles against the radical "local movements," against judicial "injunction mills," blacklists, vigilante terrorism, yellow dog contracts and other perils.

"I don't want to be a pessimist, but I regard the Taft-Hartley law as a greater danger to our economy than all the other attacks I have mentioned," he declared.

In answer to his own question whether labor should obey the law or comply with the measure, Frey urged compliance on grounds that it is the law of the land. Meanwhile labor should strive for its modification or repeal, he declared.

He charged the administration of the law is making it more difficult to comply and cited, for an example, the edict of Robert N. Denham, general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board, requiring all A. F. of L. officers to sign the non-Communist affidavits before any affiliated union may appear before the NLRB.

Turning to the problem of inflation, Frey was equally vehement in denouncing attempts of high cost of foes to blame the rising living costs upon wage increases.

The plain fact is, he declared, that wages have actually lagged far behind the gains made by other elements of the nation's economy.

He presented official figures to prove his statement. They showed that profits of corporations filing reports after taxes zoomed to 211 percent over 1939; that profits of unincorporated businesses jumped 628 percent; that farmers' income has soared 196 percent, in each case many times the advance of wages.

"There's the record of what these others have taken for themselves," Frey declared. "Why doesn't the press give those figures to the public?

"Even the huge profit figures don't tell the whole story, because corporations turned additional billions into reserves, new buildings and new equipment.

"So, it comes with poor grace for them to blame labor for the high cost of living. In doing so, they have merely indulged in the old 'dog-in-the-manger' trick of diverting attention from their own depredations."

Summing up, Frey warned that predatory greed must stop or industry and agriculture will "commit suicide."

Delegates to the Metal Trades Convention adopted many resolutions, the most important of which was one condemning the Taft-Hartley law and its administration. The ruling of Robert N. Denham on the subject of Communist affidavits was hit as a drastic and arbitrary edict hindering the attempts of unions to comply with the law.

The resolution, which urged all AFL officers "to yield to the present letter and requirements of the law," pledged the unions to fight to "right the wrongs of the act," not by defiance, but "in the American way, through aid of the courts, the ballot box, and by congressional action."

Other resolutions were adopted calling for the maintenance of a navy and merchant marine sufficient to meet the needs of national defense and the economic welfare of this country, the settling of loans to foreign countries for shipbuilding purposes, and an intensive drive to elect the friends and defeat the enemies of labor.

Additional actions by the convention opposed the elimination of rent control, urged the enactment of longrange housing legislation, called for the establishment of a labor bank by labor movement, and proposed an intensive organizing drive during the coming year despite the obstacles created by the Taft-Hartley law.

AFL FOOD CLERKS GET NEW PAY INCREASES

Oakland, Calif.—A new contract has been awarded AFL food clerks by the Retail Grocers Association. The contract includes raises of from $10 to $13 a week. New pay scales range from $46.50 for beginners to $66 for head clerks and $80 for managers. Overtime at time and a half is also provided along with a basic 5-day, 40-hour week.

WAGE-HOUR LAW SUITS DOUBLED IN TWO YEARS

Washington, D. C.—Law suits alleging violations of the Federal wage-hour law doubled in the last two years, without counting any of the portal-to portal back pay claims filed during the past year.

This was revealed in a report of the administrative offices of the Federal court system submitted at the annual session of the annual judicial conference of senior circuit court judges.

Meany For Intelligent Political Approach To Defeat Foes

San Francisco.—In an address before the convention of the Building and Construction Trades Department, George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the AFL, struck at the Taft-Hartley law as a measure which is not good for either labor or the nation.

Mr. Meany declared the law was perpetrated by the National Association of Manufacturers and enacted with the support of men in the political party plus the aid of a reactionary bloc in the opposing party, but said that labor is not entirely blameless for the reasons leading to the passage of the law.

He cited the Taft-Hartley law as the most far-reaching law in a widespread pattern of anti-labor legislation, declaring that during the years in the face of increased strength on the part of labor, increased unity and the magnificent record of labor in helping win the problem of war.

In assessing the course of events which led to passage of the anti-labor law in Congress, Mr. Meany declared they showed clearly that public opinion was not the cause of labor's troubles, charged that somewhere along the line labor had become its great strength.

He urged the delegates to the convention to adopt an intelligent approach to the problem facing labor, however. Mr. Meany called for new thinking in labor's approach to the political campaign to bring about the defeat of the reactionaries in the next election to office of friends of the labor movement.

He warned against definite ties with any political party, declaring that has caused the policy enunciated by Samuel Gompers, the father of the AFL, to be abandoned. He also gave a fiat deal to the working man and rejected the suggestion that labor should seek to destroy the labor movement.

Mr. Meany declared the employers have turned to politics to win their ends and declared that the strength of labor has been more than matched by other elements of the labor unions. Labor must do likewise on an intelligent basis, he said. It is to win out against the foes seeking its destruction, he said.

He urged greater efforts to win support of the general public for labor's program, declaring that the bills sponsored by labor's foes that the record shows would be unwise to the layman from his union. The public must be informed of what kind of unions we have, Mr. Meany said, and that is the only way to go for it on the basis of the assertions of labor's foes.

AFL President William Green, in brief addresses to the various delegates, urged that calm, intelligent action be employed by labor's friends to forge organizational unity within the labor movement. He pointed out the time when unity was needed more than in the present.

Delegates to the convention approved several resolutions including one condemning the Taft-Hartley law and its administration. The ruling of Robert N. Denham on the subject of Communist affidavits was hit as a drastic and arbitrary edict hindering the attempts of unions to comply with the law.

The resolution, which urged all AFL officers "to yield to the present letter and requirements of the law," pledged the unions to fight to "right the wrongs of the act," not by defiance, but "in the American way, through aid of the courts, the ballot box, and by congressional action."

Other resolutions were adopted calling for the maintenance of a navy and merchant marine sufficient to meet the needs of national defense and the economic welfare of this country, the settling of loans to foreign countries for shipbuilding purposes, and an intensive drive to elect the friends and defeat the enemies of labor.

Additional actions by the convention opposed the elimination of rent control, urged the enactment of longrange housing legislation, called for the establishment of a labor bank by labor movement, and proposed an intensive organizing drive during the coming year despite the obstacles created by the Taft-Hartley law.

Repeal Of 'Slave' Law Is Labor's Main Objective; Defeating Its Enemies A Close Second, Says Green

Secretary of Labor Schwellenbach Declares Soaring Prices Outstripped Labor's Wage Boosts in Last 15 Months

San Francisco.—Secretary of Labor Lewis B. Schwellenbach declared that during the last 15 months labor's wage rates have never been able "to catch up" with soaring prices.

In an address before the 66th convention of the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Schwellenbach singled out the high cost of living as the "most important economic issue facing the United States at the present time."

Condemning those who seek to create the impression that the present inflated price level, the Secretary said:

"I think we should fight with all of our vigor any effort to continue the campaign to tie upon the wage earners of the country the label of being exclusively responsible for the increase."

Mr. Schwellenbach declared that wise powerful, forceful leadership in the solution of the nation's economic problems must come from the trade union movement. It represents the largest single factor in the rank and file of organized workers are told that their leaders are deceiving them and attempting to sell them down the river.

Turning to a discussion of the rising cost of living, Mr. Schwellenbach urged labor to undertake a fair analysis of the wage-price situation, and said:

"If we do, it will be guch a refreshing contract to the campaign that has been carried on against you.

"I think that in part those who control the propaganda machines and who are opposed to organized labor want the American people to forget the prediction that they made in May and June of 1946, and to shoulder the responsibility for the favorite whipping boy, labor, on which they desire to bear them out. The so-called economists whom they employ to get the figures and interpret them sometimes have a very time for labor. All direct attack against grinds out a release.

"Let me repeat the statement that frankness and honesty compel me to state that there is a relationship between wage increases and price increases. But, unfortunately, the relationship never gives a full picture. All direct can labor attempted to do was to pursue prices and never, in the last 15 months, have they been able to catch up.

"Living costs during that period have increased 20 percent. Weekly and monthly wages of factory workers have risen; less than 18 percent. The $49 or $50 take-home pay of the average worker today buys just about the same goods and services that his $33 pay did just after Pearl Harbor.

"Other economic increases have been used as the excuse for price increase."

In contrast to the failure of the average worker to keep up with the rising cost of living, the Secretary pointed to the high profits enjoyed by manufacturing corporations during the same period. Such profits, he declared, "cannot be defended in this particular period of our national economy."

He denounced the policy of corporations in setting aside reserves for a "rainy day" when such policy results in forcing workers to dip into their declining savings. He said:

"I think the wage earner is as much entitled to get a nestegg for the future as is a corporation."

Mr. Schwellenbach called for the support of organized labor in attempts to build up a strong Labor Department to serve the workers of the nation. He decried the cut in appropriations for the Labor Department by the Congress and declared that the cuts in funds have reduced the services which the department is capable of rendering to organized labor.

AFL COUNCIL ENDORSES PAYROLL SAVINGS PLAN

San Francisco.—The AFL Executive Council, in report to the convention, emphatically endorsed the continuation on a permanent voluntary basis of the Treasury Department's Payroll Savings Plan for the purchase of U. S. savings bonds.

The Council said the policy was predicated upon the abundant evidence of the degree to which wage earners learned to practice thrift through experience gained during the war.

At the present time, the report stated, approximately 5½ million wage earners are purchasing the savings bonds, and over $110,000,000 worth of savings bonds every month.

Court Nullifies 'Hot Cargo' Law

San Francisco.—The State Supreme Court, by a vote of 5 to 2, declared the California "hot cargo" law unconstitutional.

The entire law, the court held, must be nullified upon the basis of one section.

Final settlement of the much-debated law was set aside by the decision for the California Federation of Labor, which had contended unsuccessfully when it was considered by the legislature.

The court invalidated the law because it sought to outlaw the union ban on handling of "hot cargo"—the product of a struck concern—which is in the hands of other firms not involved in the dispute. The entire act sought to prevent the secondary boycott, the boycott of firms which are indirectly concerned in a dispute.

The decision did not pass specifically on the secondary boycott question, the court held, need not be considered because the unconstitutional provisions of the law are inextricably involved with the constitutional provisions; one cannot be separated from the other. Hence the entire act must be declared invalid.

The "hot cargo" bill was first passed as a wartime measure by the 1941 legislature, but vetoed by Governor Olson, and was passed over his veto. Its operation was suspended by referendum proceedings but the act finally became effective when it received a majority of more than 210,000 in the election of November, 1942.

Labor Press Makes Journalism Awards

San Francisco.—Winners of the 1947 "Annie" awards, for outstanding achievement in labor press journalism were announced tonight in the 66th annual convention of the International Labor Press of America.

One hundred and sixteen labor publications were judged by the Committee on Awards.

The winners, as announced by Lewis M. Herman, chairman, and secretary of the ILPA, and chairman of the committee, are:

Editorial Excellence, Magazines—Machinists' Monthly Journal, 1st prize; The American Teacher, 2d; Conference in Typography and Newspapers, The Hat Worker, 1st; Labor Voice of Texas, 2d.

Typography, Monthlies—Paper Worker, 1st; Southern Teamster, 2d.

Editorial Excellence, Weeklies—Labor Clevelander, 1st; Typography, Weeklies—Oregon Teamster, 1st; Colorado Labor Advocate, 2d.

Best Editorial—The Union Carpenter, 1st; Colorado Labor Advocate, 2d.

Best Special—Southern California Teamster, 1st; The Seafarers Log, 2d.

Best Front Page, Art or Pictorial—Hat Worker, 1st; The Seafarers Log, 2d.

Best Front Page, Style—The Cleveland Citizen, 2d.

Best Special—Southern California Teamster, 1st; The Union Carpenter, 2d.

A special "Editorial Award" was given L. F. Straube, Editor of Federation News, Chicago, Illinois, for an editorial, "The Labor Press, Its Need and Creed."

Keynote Address Before 66th AFL Convention Raps Charges of Labor's Inefficiency; Hits at Those Obstructing Peace

San Francisco.—Sounding the keynote at the opening of the 66th convention of the American Federation of Labor, William Green, AFL President, declared repeal of the Taft-Hartley law is the number one objective of the labor movement.

Mr. Green, speaking before the 700 delegates to the largest convention ever held by the AFL, pledged unstinting, uncompromising efforts on the part of labor to work for the defeat of every member of Congress who voted for the oppressive measure.

Wild cheering by the enthusiastic audience greeted Mr. Green's references to the Taft-Hartley law and the political campaign against the sponsors. Throughout his speech spontaneous applause could be heard ringing through the vast hall where the representatives of the AFL's largest membership in history, nearly 7,000,000 strong, gathered to map labor's plans for the forthcoming year.

The opening week of the sessions are devoted to guest speakers who will present their views on timely subjects. Meanwhile behind the scenes, convention committees are busy preparing final resolutions for presentation to and action by the delegates. An air of tenseness prevailed as the union members assembled here prepared to face the momentous issues which lie ahead.

The opening session was called to order by John Shelly, California State Senator and president of the California Federation of Labor, who introduced Mr. Green, followed by addresses of welcome by Governor Earl Warren and Mayor Roger Lapham of San Francisco. Other preliminary addresses were delivered by C. J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the California Federation of Labor, and those who will be heard by the convention in week to get out the vote in 1948.

"In order to serve this purpose, this convention, I know, will direct and order that we establish election day in 1948 as a holiday so that the workers will have an opportunity to register their sentiments at the polls the votes if we can get them into the ballot box.

"If this convention does not provide for this, God must have loved because He made so many of them, along with their staunch and devoted friends and allies. Without such an effort to get their sentiments registered at the polls if they do, there will be no doubt as to the outcome of the election.

"So now we must prepare for 1948. That is the job. The workers of the nation can do it and will do it in my judgment. If we organize, if we register, if we vote, if we keep the right kind of political records his vote on election day in opposition to those who voted against them and stood against them in their hour of need.

"Our appeal will be to the workers of the nation and to all our friends to help us in this great task of defeating this attempt to limit freedom, liberty and democracy and to substitute therefor dictatorship and governmental control of the economic life of our nation and the activities of this nation. In that way we will be fighting, not only to preserve labor from this anti-labor legislation, but in addition for the preservation of freedom, liberty, democracy and justice in the United States of America."

Mr. Green branded as a delusion the fond hope of the sponsors of anti-labor legislation, especially the Taft-Hartley law, of driving a wedge between the workers and the organizations representing them by stating the law is one which frees the workers from domination by their union leaders.

"I don't mind if they continue to suffer under that delusion, because you know if there is any group of people in America firmly opposed to this legislation, it is the workers of the shops, the mills, the mines, and the factories who you have the honor to represent, and there is no business agent, no leader, no officer of any organization serving in a national capacity that could hold his position if he would go against the will of the workers. Every one of them is to approve the Taft-Hartley law.

Every one of them would be defeated.

"Now what are we going to do about it? We are not going to remain passive and quiet. We are going to work and this great convention will declare to the world how we will act.

"The first of the steps we will direct that the American Federation of Labor oppose with all of the power at its command these anti-labor laws and the Taft-Hartley law in particular.

"We will set as a great objective, that we must reach at any cost, the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law at the earliest opportunity.

"Secondly, we will set as an equal objective without compromise that labor is determined to defeat for reelection every member of Congress who voted for the Taft-Hartley law."

A substantial part of Mr. Green's address was devoted to a vehement refutation of the charge that labor's productivity is at a low level. He said:

"I am willing to match the record of labor during the war years of productivity and efficiency than any American worker ever stood in all the history of our nation. Efficiency has been increased to the highest degree.

Mr. Green cited the marvelous achievements of labor during the war in stepping up production and in providing a steady, never-ending stream of the implements of war to the fighting forces.

"We have shown what can be accomplished by free men in a free economy. We have shown that the production of the goods and services which can be produced when workers are free from repression and can give their attention to their highest and best creative impulses.

"With the close of the war our production continued to expand. The needs of peace and the reconstruction of the entire world created unprecedented demand for the products of American factories.

"In 1939 our gross national product was slightly in excess of 090 billion. In the first half of 1947, we had rapidly increased the gross national product to a rate of $210,000,000,000 per year. We are now producing 50 percent more actual physical product than we did in the prosperous year of 1939.

"Now, in the face of these facts those who have charged lower efficiency among the millions of workers in the United States of America, have not only committed a foul accusation. Instead, I state to those who criticize and find fault: 'Go where you will, look where you will, search as you will and you will find a worker more efficient, with greater productivity than you will find anywhere else in the world except in the United States of America.'"

Turning to foreign policy and the international situation, Mr. Green said:

"The workers of the world crave peace and security, but the working people of America have been greatly disappointed in the work of the United Nations. Without questioning honesty of purpose, they have complained out at all forms of totalitarianism and dictatorships that are standing in the way of real peace for the world.

"We do not want to impose on any nation any political philosophy, but we do propose to apply the principles throughout the world that we believe in ourselves as to whether they want a democratic form of government or totalitarianism.

"We will oppose with all the power at our command any attempt on the part of any group to set up any sort of totalitarian dictatorship upon the people throughout the world against their will."

Of the economic situation on the domestic front, Mr. Green was equally adamant. Reiterating the AFL's historical position as being unalterably opposed to any form of price control, he said there is no alternative.

"We will have nothing to do with communism in any shape or form. The American Federation of Labor is a strong opponent of it. We believe in America, the fundamental law of the United States, the Constitution, freedom and democracy.

On the question of inflation, Mr. Green accused those who would blame labor for the rising cost of living as misrepresenting the facts. Prices have doubled, he declared, and "even the NAM cannot successfully blame organized labor for that."

Labor has done little more than to keep a firm grip "on the tail of the ever-rising skyrocket of prices," he declared.

"Labor's hands are tied. It is, therefore, the direct responsibility of the manufacturers and sellers of our products to return to the American tradition of producing in large quantities for a mass consumer market at the lowest possible prices compatible with American standards.

"Then, and only then, will we realize a strong, permanent economy with full production, full employment, and purchasing power in the hands of our people sufficient to keep the wheels of industry in full motion."

Organizing Drive In South Achieves New Large Gains

San Francisco.—The Executive Council reported satisfactory progress in the AFL's organizing campaign in terms of gains in membership, new locals, and new bargaining units.

In addition to such gains, the Council report stressed the campaign's importance in the establishment of AFL activities in the South.

The following table shows the status of the drive at a glance:

ORGANIZING PROGRESS IN SOUTHERN STATES (14)
JUNE, 1946, TO JULY 31, 1947

General Powerful Membership Gain	425,000
In new locals, new shops or firms or new bargaining units	230,000
In growth in established locals or bargaining units	65,000
This figure includes new organizations, annual service men, men, increased employment and other such factors.	
New Charters Issued	1,300
New Bargaining Units Established	1,800
NLRB Elections Won	1,264
NLRB Elections Lost, about	360
Sparkling Successes Include:	
Teamsters organized over 200 trucking firms, estimated membership	10,000
District 50	7,000
Bakery and Confectionery Workers	7,000
Chemical Workers, 31 Charters	4,000
Pulp, Sulphite and Paper	6,000
Lumber and construction field	9,500
In sawmill, furniture and general milling and woodworking	5,000
Electricians, estimated	6,500
(Won three or four big power companies, one telephone company, rural electrification companies, balance electrical manufacturing industry.)	
Tobacco Workers	9,000
Insurance Agents	2,200
Hotel and Restaurant Workers	2,000
Laundry Workers	6,000
Bus Drivers	1,000
Hod Carriers and Common Laborers	9,000
Barbers	2,200
Paper Makers	2,000
Molders	2,000
Printing Pressmen, specialty field	2,500
Office Employes	3,500
Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, estimate	4,500
Packing houses, retail butcher shops, meat canning, fish packing and processing, wholesale meat establishment shop and standard agreement.	
Operating Engineers—won great many small units 6 to 10 members each—membership gain probably	3,000 to 4,000
International Ladies Garment Workers	2,000
Other Needle Trades	2,000
Fishermen	3,500
State, County and Municipal—25 Locals—Members	2,500
Quarries and Mineral Mines—Various Internationals	4,000
Teachers—25 Locals—Members	5,000
Textile—4 elections won—members	6,000 to 7,000
These figures and estimates are direct reports from International or unions based on NLRB petitions filed and the board reports on elections won.	
Oak Ridge, Tenn.—membership gain	5,000 to 6,500
Central Body organized—2 elections won—numerous unions organized in service and miscellaneous fields—new building trades groups, and so forth.	

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor concerning the Federal, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information in brief, to the point style.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1947

GIVE NOW
To Your
Community Chest

J. A. Padway, Stricken During Speech, Dies In Hospital Seven Hours Later

San Francisco.—Joseph A. Padway, chief counsel for the American Federation of Labor, collapsed toward the close of an impassioned address before the AFL convention here and died seven hours later in Stanford University Hospital of a cerebral hemorrhage.

The delegates to the convention, saddened by the sudden passing of their friend and coworker, suspended the scheduled convention proceedings, the following morning and held an impromptu but heartfelt tribute to Mr. Padway. After brief funeral services at the convention hall, the body was shipped to Milwaukee for burial.

AFL President William Green, voicing the sentiments of Mr. Padway's friends and associates in the American Federation of Labor, said:

"Judge Padway died as he lived, fighting for the cause of labor. He was a serious blow to the labor movement which he served so well, so fully and brilliantly. The delegates to the convention of the American Federation of Labor, who admired and respected and loved him, will join in services to his memory.

"I cannot express my own feelings of profound sorrow."

Mr. Padway had been suffering from hypertension and a stomach ailment for several years, but he did not let his illness interfere with his work and, in fact, has been under a more severe strain during the past year than in any previous comparable period.

His address to the convention, reviewing the legal highlights of 1947 and labor's battles in Congress, the state legislatures and the courts against antilabor legislation, told the story of working under high pressure to head off recurring legal crises.

The prosecution of James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, the filed suits against the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the contempt proceedings against the United Mine Workers of America and the enactment of the Taft-Hartley Act were some of the high spots mentioned by Mr. Padway before he collapsed at the speaker's platform.

Mr. Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany noticed that the 56-year-old lawyer was becoming unsteady on his feet as he spoke and persuaded him to sit down for a few moments while a convention announcement was read. Although he protested he was ready to go on and complete his address, it became apparent that he was too ill to do so, and the convention session was adjourned. Accompanied by his wife and his brother, L. B. Padway, San Francisco attorney, the stricken lawyer was taken to the hotel, where a doctor was summoned. Removed to Stanford Hospital, Mr. Padway lost consciousness and passed away a few hours later.

His last words to the convention, delivered at a severe inflection of the Taft-Hartley Act which, he charged, trampled on the constitutional rights of the nation's workers. He said:

"By the Taft-Hartley Act, 'government by injunction' has been reestablished with a vengeance never dreamed of or practiced before.

"By this law, the National Labor Relations Act's guarantees of the right to organize and to free from employer domination are removed or diluted so as to be practically worthless to workers and their unions; this law encourages the employer to start a code of unfair labor practices so that he can be charged to answer and thereby weaken and destroy them.

"By this act, numerous suits against unions are encouraged, and the procedure for bringing them are facilitated so as to invade or destroy union treasuries by these judgments.

"By this law, the right to bargain for the closed shop or to bargain for the welfare benefits of many well-established conditions, is made illegal and, in some instances, made criminal conduct.

"By this act, the union check-off is turned into a problem with many difficulties.

"Under this law, political expenditures designed to unite a force to be taken over by the government, which the government will use when taken to pass upon the reasonableness of union initiation fees, and to be sure that employers and supervisors in the status of employees so they cannot be members of unions, as they are forced to other employees.

"This act imposes procedures which will keep unions in constant litigation, and it is the ultimate purpose of the law for the purpose of destroying union security and to destroy finally labor as an organization representing workers' interests.

"It is for that reason I say that our opportunity to serve labor's cause and our thinking respecting them must entirely change from the past."

AFL Convention Action And NLRB Decision To Free Affiliated Unions From Denham Ruling

Boards' 4-to-1 Decision Flatly Reverses Edict Requiring Top AFL Officers to Sign Oaths Disclaiming Communist Beliefs

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board, in a 4-to-1 decision handed down in its most crucial ruling that pits officers of the AFL and the CIO are not required to sign non-Communist affidavits under the Taft-Hartley law.

Bowing to the ruling of the NLRB, Robert N. Denham, general counsel for the board, announced the new decision would apply in unfair practice complaint cases as well as in representation cases brought before the NLRB.

Denham originally issued a regulation requiring affidavits by all AFL officers before any AFL affiliated unions could appear before the board. The NLRB's decision flatly reversed him.

(In San Francisco, AFL President William Green heralded the NLRB decision as an AFL victory. Commenting on the board's action, he said: "The decision sustains our position. The automatic status of AFL affiliated unions has now been fully recognized. Each union may now decide if it wishes to process cases before the NLRB.")

The NLRB's majority decision was signed by three members: Chairman Paul Herzog, and members John M. Houston and James J. Reynolds. A separate concurring opinion was filed by member Abe Murdock.

The only dissenter was member J. Copeland Gray.

The majority opinion said the requirement that all top AFL and CIO officers sign the Communist affidavits did not accomplish the fundamental purpose of Congress which was "to eliminate Communist influence from the labor movement of the United States."

"Are Communists," the board said, "likely to be eliminated from positions of influence in the labor movement by our barring those local and international unions which, in full knowledge . . . merely reelect as officers of a parent organization over whose status they have only the most remote control may choose to file the required affidavits?

"We think not."

The majority said that "in the absence of a clear expression of legislative intent to the contrary," they could only conclude that "Congress could not have deliberately intended to impose a requirement which would, in practice, the two great national federations."

In his concurring opinion, Murdock said the law was fuzzy on the issue, but "where there are two possible interpretations of the scope of those filing requirements, clearly we should adopt that interpretation which will serve the general purpose of the act rather than that which will defeat its basic purposes."

The case before the National Labor Relations Board arose as the result of a ruling by Ross Madden, Regional Director of the board in Baltimore dismissing a petition certified by the Communist-dominated union which had been filed by Local No. 1218 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, in the matter of Northern Virginia Broadcasting, Inc., a company operating radio station WARL in Arlington, Virginia.

The petition for certification was filed July 17, 1947. A consent election was scheduled for September 3, 1947, but was postponed by Regional Director Madden because although the local union and the IBEW had complied with all filing requirements under the Taft-Hartley law, the officers of the AFL had not done so.

Daniel W. Tracy, president of the IBEW, then filed a petition with the Regional Director requesting him to proceed with the election, and subsequently filed a petition requesting the Regional Director either to dismiss the petition for certification or proceed with the election.

Upon the denial of these petitions, Mr. Tracy appealed the Regional Director's ruling to the National Labor Relations Board. He charged that Mr. Denham's ruling which was the basis of the Regional Director's action was a "farfetched legal technicality . . . which will prove ruinous, if unchanged, to labor-management relations."

NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE IN HOLLYWOOD DISPUTE

San Francisco.—The AFL's Executive Council discussed the jurisdictional questions underlying the Hollywood labor dispute between the Conference of Studio Unions and the International Association of Theatrical and Stage Employees.

Following the meeting, AFL President William Green said the Council decided to bring the disputants together for direct negotiation in an attempt to settle the problem involved.

Representatives of the opposing groups held their first session later in the day, but adjourned without having reached a final settlement.

Action in the matter is expected to be taken until the next meeting of the negotiators scheduled for October 20th in Hollywood.

New Constitutional Amendment Eliminating Office of Vice-President Recommended For Action by AFL Convention

San Francisco—Solution of the most pressing immediate problem affecting members of the American Federation of Labor under the Taft-Hartley law was announced by President William Green.

He said the Executive Council had decided to recommend to the annual convention in progress here an AFL constitutional amendment under which the president and secretary-treasurer of the AFL will be sole officers of the union and the 13 vice presidents will lose those titles and be considered solely members of the Executive Council.

It is considered a foregone conclusion that the convention will approve this amendment by the necessary two-thirds vote. As soon as it does Mr. Green said he and Mr. Meany will sign the non-Communist affidavits required under the Taft-Hartley law as a condition precedent to unions being permitted to utilize the services of the National Labor Relations Board in election and unfair labor practice cases.

The amendment was needed primarily to protect the 200,000 members of directly affiliated federal labor unions. Previously the National Labor Relations Board by overruling its own chief counsel Mr. Denham had wiped out the requirement that all members of the AFL Executive Council must sign the affidavits before the board would act on cases in which an affiliated union could hope to use the board's services.

This development which came after several prolonged meetings of the Executive Council highlighted the first week of the convention.

Other major convention actions were included:

1—A program for a nation-wide and well organized political campaign by the American Federation of Labor in 1948 was drafted for submission to the delegates.

2—Recommendations were made to the convention that further efforts be made to settle the long standing Hollywood jurisdictional dispute along the lines previously urged by the Executive Council and its special committee which made an arbitration offer to the unions involved, but was rejected and clarified that award.

3—Secretary Joseph H. Humphrey of Minneapolis urged the delegates in an eloquent address to adopt a positive progressive program that will appeal to all the American people if labor is to make any substantial progress in the coming elections. A negative approach calling merely for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and other anti-labor legislation he warned will be doomed to failure.

4—General Mark W. Clark, world war hero and now Commanding General of the Sixth Army, addressed the convention and urged labor to adopt a policy constructive proposal for the speedy rehabilitation of Europe and establishment of world peace.

5—National Commander James P. O'Neil, of the American Legion, voiced the sentiment that all the groups must work together if the peace for the future may be wiped out overnight if war breaks out again. He urged a strong and modern national defense program as the safeguard against such a catastrophe.

Business sessions of the convention were tragically interrupted by the collapse at the speakers platform of Joseph A. Padway, chief counsel for the AFL, and his death in a local hospital a few hours later.

President Green and many of the leading delegates paid the highest tribute to Mr. Padway as a man-General service held in the convention hall. More than 2,000 persons passed the bier to take a last view of the remains. To many of the delegates Mr. Padway had been more than a lawyer and associate. In fact a life-long friend. His sudden passing deeply saddened the convention's deliberations.

Earlier the news from Washington that the National Labor Relations Board had overruled the Denham regulation on the filing of non-Communist affidavits was widely hailed as a victory for the AFL's position.

AFL Seamen Retain Union Hiring Halls

San Francisco—The AFL's Sailors Union of the Pacific announced the signing yesterday of a new Pacific coast contract which, despite the Taft-Hartley law, provides for maintenance of the union's hiring halls.

Harry Lundeberg, president of the Seafarers International Union and secretary of the Sailors Union of the Pacific, declared the new agreement gives the SUP "the most complete seamen in the world."

The Taft-Hartley hiring hall provision, the contract provides wage increases ranging from $15 to $42.50 per month for the 8,000 members of the union. Overtime rates in the increases range from 8 to 15 percent, and are described by Lundeberg as "higher than those negotiated by the CIO and other unions."

The hiring hall clause, according to Lundeberg, reads as follows:

"The employers agree, in the hiring of employes, to prefer applicants who have previously been employed by vessels of one or more of the companies signatory to this agreement.

The union agrees that in furnishing deck personnel to employers it has facilities of their employment office it will recognize such preferences and furnish seamen to the employers with due regard thereto and to the competency and dependability of the employes furnished.

"When ordinary seamen with prior experience are not available, the union will, in dispatching seamen, prefer graduates of the Andrew Furuseth Training School."

While the clauses, technically speaking, provide only for "preferential employment," in practice they give the SUP a closed shop until such time as there are no "preferred" seamen waiting for employment.

The only sailors who qualify as "previous employes" are members of the SUP, and Andrew Furuseth Training School is largely staffed with SUP members.

The term "employment office" as used in the agreement means, in practice, the union's hiring hall.

CATHOLIC PRIEST AIDS CONSTRUCTION UPSWING

New York City.—John J. Brennan, secretary of the AFL's Building and Construction Trades Council of New York, said there was a marked rise in employment in the construction industry here.

He attributed the improved conditions to the decision of Cardinal Spellman, Roman Catholic archbishop of New York, to proceed with the Archdiocese's $100,000,000 building program.

Asserting that the Cardinal's "courage" had stimulated the entire industry, Mr. Brennan said that it had established 25,000 more persons employed in May to get jobs in construction than in April, when the Cardinal's program as "one of the greatest weapons against Communism" in the simple reason that Communism feeds on the discontent created by unemployment."

WARNING FOR OFFICIALS OF AFL LOCAL UNIONS

San Francisco.—The Post Office Department has issued a warning to secretaries of local unions to refrain from selling to distributors for the New South Wales State Lottery of Sydney, Australia.

The department reported that 5,000 mailbags of lottery tickets were mailed to local secretaries in an effort to promote the said sale, which is against the law and in violation of postal regulations.

The Post Office Department requests that all such tickets be forwarded to the Post Office Inspector in Charge, San Francisco, California.

AFL Called On To Intensify Campaign For Housing Bill

San Francisco.—Mr. Lee F. Johnson, executive vice-president of the National Public Housing Conference, called upon the AFL to spearhead a renewed campaign for the passage of the Taft-Ellender-Wagner Bill, originally sponsored by Senator Robert F. Wagner.

In an address before the AFL convention, Johnson attacked the real estate lobby and other employer groups in the construction industry for their failure to provide decent housing for workers and their efforts to place the blame for present high construction costs upon organized labor's shoulders.

"Labor costs cannot be blamed honestly for the tremendous rise in housing costs today. Of course labor costs are a large part of the cost, but the wage increases of building tradesmen is small indeed in comparison to the profits that are being taken along the line by the privileged interests which are calling the shots in the Congress today.

"We are faced with a housing crisis that is the worst since the war. Homes were produced over night, not anything very fancy, but decent shelter nevertheless. Today we expect millions of labor to produce tanks, ships, and guns. That job was done by union labor. The unions were there in time to save the nation. And I ask myself sometimes, to save it for what?

"We know how to do something about saving the democracy, that we talked so much about, when peacetime came. We knew that the greatest and most effective fight for it was the fight for decent housing veterans and their families. Most of them newly created families. We met and resolved and held conventions, and elected a Congress that in the end would do something about it. We hope and pray that this first, that real estate operators must get their cut first, that the long fought-for, long promised, long overdue program of labor to provide decent shelter for the toiling masses of labor to open our part against those forces that would, in the guise of economy, are always attempting to sacrifice the unfortunates, for whom the war will be fought in vain, if we do not provide decent homes for them. In the past, your organization has carried on the fight for a decent allowance for these disabled veterans and their families. We hope and pray that you will continue to aid us in this continuous battle."

NAVY PER DIEM WORKERS TO GET PAY BOOST SOON

Washington, D. C.—The Navy Department said wages of its 200,000 per diem employes will be raised within the next few weeks.

The wage increases are expected to bring salary increases given employes in private industry who do similar work. Under the law the Navy Department is required to pay its per diem employes the same private industry rates prevailing in the areas where Navy installations are located.

RY. CARMEN EXTEND BARGAINING RIGHTS

Chicago, Ill.—Bargaining rights of the AFL's Railway Carmen on the Burlington have been extended to all other group of employes within the union's jurisdiction, those in the railroad's transportation department, it was announced by the Carmen.

The agreement, signed by the National Mediation Board showed a substantial majority of the employes favored the Carmen, and the board, therefore, amended a previous certification of the Brotherhood to include the additional unit.

TRUMAN SENDS MESSAGE TO PADWAY'S WIDOW

President Truman sent the following telegram of sympathy and condolence to Mrs. Joseph A. Padway:

"I am shocked and saddened by the death under such tragic circumstances of your devoted husband, who was my faithful friend of many years. Please accept for yourself and for all who mourn with you this assurance of heartfelt sympathy."

VFW Representative Urges AFL Support For Strong Defense Force, Veterans' Aid

San Francisco.—Mr. J. R. Klawans, chairman of the national legislative committee of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, urged the delegates at the AFL convention to support a program to develop the best Navy and strongest air force in the world, and to continue sufficient Federal aid for the needy veterans.

In a message of greeting to the convention from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Klawans asked for AFL support of the program advocated by his organization. He said:

"These two great organizations," the American Federation of Labor and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, who have marched shoulder to shoulder over the rough and strain of war must continue to march together during these dangerous times.

"Our national defense requires that we be prepared for peace as in war. With the shadow of the atom bomb and directed missiles hanging over this troubled world, it has become essential that we unite in plans for one of the biggest, toughest and most efficient air force in the world. It is our hope that you will join with us in supporting this program.

"We cannot permit our airplane and munitions industry to pass out of existence because we will be the first target in the next war and we will not be given the opportunity, as we were in the last war, to build a 'Arsenal of Democracy.' War is like a prize fight—the second hit usually is no good. Let's see to it that we have the best air force in the world and the strongest Navy in the world, as well as the finest lines of defense.

"We have one other primary objective—to see to it that the United States of America, the richest country in the world, shall not be the litigation described by Abraham Lincoln—to see to it that the United States of America, the richest country in the world, shall not be the one on our part against those forces that would, in the guise of economy, are always attempting to sacrifice the unfortunates, for whom the war will be fought in vain, if we do not provide decent homes for them. In the past, your organization has carried on the fight for a decent allowance for these disabled veterans and their families. We hope and pray that you will continue to aid us in this continuous battle."

Union Label Trades Convention Urged To Organize Nation's Purchasing Power

San Francisco.—Delegates to the 39th convention of the Union Label Trades Department, in session here, heard I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the department, reveal plans for the 1948 Union Industries Show to be held in Milwaukee.

It is expected that the 1948 show will surpass the highly successful exhibition staged in St. Louis in 1946 which elicited much favorable comment from participating manufacturers.

"The show will be a glorious panorama of all things union," Mr. Ornburn declared in his report to the convention.

AFL President William Green, in an address to the delegates, took the occasion to praise the work of the women's auxiliaries in promoting the use of the union label, shop cards, and service buttons.

He stressed the need for an educational campaign by labor to organize the consumers and convince them that the union label, shop card, and service button is their assurance of superior goods and services. The union emblems stand for a high standard of living, Mr. Green declared.

Matthew Woll, president of the department and vice-president of the AFL, emphasized the fact that while the AFL membership was higher than ever before, the organization's annual purchases of union label, shop card, and service button items amounted to only one-fourth of this sum, he declared.

"For example, if the members of the AFL would spend one dollar each day for the purchase of goods and services identified by the union label, shop card, or service button, these members alone would annually spend over 2½ billion dollars annually into industry supporting the labor movement, he said.

This purchasing power could be a tremendous force in the nation's economy and serve to weaken the forces of reaction which seek to destroy labor, Mr. Woll asserted.

Mr. Woll urged a campaign to emphasize the nation's purchasing power and direct such power toward the purchase of union goods and services. Tremendous power can be wielded by the consumers purchases of this sort, he declared.

Truman Praises Labor's Cooperation; Warns Against Inflation, Housing Crises

San Francisco.—In praise of American workers, President Truman said that "without the patriotic support of the 60th session of congress and the recent victories over tyranny abroad the task in this country would not have been possible.

The President declared we are enjoying a prosperous period which has brought full employment and new records in production, but he warned that the housing and inflation crises must be solved before we can maintain a stable and prosperous economy."

In a message of greeting to the AFL convention here the President said the AFL, in addition to the welfare of its own members, has always interested in the welfare of the nation as a whole, in the betterment of the social security system, and in the establishment of an adequate health insurance system.

A part of the President's message follows: "The critical conditions which threaten the well-being of the entire world . . . demand the assurance that labor could be dependable. I am sure that you will make every effort to help feed the hungry across the seas in the coming months."

The text of the President's message follows:

"Please convey my greetings to the delegates assembled at the American Federation of Labor in attending the 67th convention of your organization. I wish them success and you a successful meeting.

"Since your first convention, the United States has undergone many changes, not only to our own people, but to the needy and oppressed people in other countries. Our economic and political problems and those of Europe have increased greatly. I have not dreamed of in the early days of your organization.

"People in many parts of the world are looking to us for help and we can again become self-supporting countries with normal trade relations. I feel sure that the working men and women of America do not begrudge our sharing of our abundance with those less fortunate, especially in view of the fact that our production today is greater than ever before in peacetime.

"I know, too, that labor and industry, recognizing the seriousness of the situation abroad, will cooperate to raise the production level still further to help meet the critical conditions which threaten the well-being of the entire world. I feel sure that you will depend upon the workers to cooperate fully and generously in all-out efforts to feed the hungry across the seas in the months to come. The task in many of the countries in the year ahead will be much more acute than in the past. The United States must export large quantities of food if this need is to be met—but to do so will require the cooperation of food by every American. The President of the American Federation of Labor and the chairman of the Citizens Food Committee which is helping the government to map ways and means of conserving essential foods for export and for other needs of your unions are working together to find the effort to provide the food that is needed to help the people of other countries to hasten their rehabilitation.

"The United States has been fortunate. We have fought and won three terrible wars within our time. Now our huge labor force is again employed in peaceful pursuits. None of these victories over the forces of tyranny and terror would have been possible without the patriotic support of the workers in every one of them.

"Marked economic changes have taken place since your convention last met. Unemployment and wage record figures; unemployment has been held to a minimum. Substantial wage increases have benefited millions of workers. Production has reached new peacetime levels and work stoppages have declined. But prices have advanced to unreasonable heights and threaten to undermine the well-being of many of our citizens. These are problems which must be remedied so that we can maintain a stable and prosperous economy in which all will share the benefits.

"The American Federation of Labor is concerned with the immediate problems of today, and the improvement of their security and their welfare of your country and its people. It is likewise concerned with the interests of the nation as a whole, with the welfare of our country and the means by which we may in cooperation, one with the other, build an ever-expanding economy in the interests of our own people and those of Europe who are looking to us to help them regain their economic health and political stability."